

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 150291

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
LIMDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY FROM VINE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDIP, FI

SUBJECT:MEETING OF KEIJO KORHONEN, UNDER SECRETARY, FINNISH
MFA, WITH AARON AND BARTHOLOMEW ON KEKKONEN
PROPOSAL

1. REG BARTHOLOMEW OF THE NSC TELLS ME THAT FINNISH
AMBASSADOR ILONIEMI ARRANGED THIS JUNE 1 MEETING DIRECTLY
WITH THEM AND THEY OVERLOOKED HAVING A STATE NOTETAKER AS
THEY HAD DONE IN OTHER CASES. AS A RESULT, THERE IS NO
WRITTEN RECORD. ILONIEMI, KORHONEN, BARTHOLOMEW AND AARON
PARTICIPATED.

2. KORHONEN SAID HE WAS NOT SEEKING AN OFFICIAL REACTION.
US VIEWS WERE GIVEN AS "PERSONAL AND PRELIMINARY" AND THEY
EXPECTED THERE TO BE FURTHER CONTACTS AT STATE ON THIS.

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3. MAIN US POINTS WERE:

(A) THIS PROPOSAL HAD BEEN AROUND FOR SOME TIME AND HAD
FIRST BEEN SURFACED IN 1963;

(B) WE SHOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TO TALK WITH THE FINNS ABOUT
THIS. IT SHOULD FIRST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE OTHER

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND THE USSR. WE HAD THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
THE PROPOSAL.

(C) THERE WERE BASICALLY THREE COMMENTS ON THE SUBSTANCE:

(1) THE PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE DEFENSE
OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE NORTH;

(2) THE DANES AND THE NORWEGIANS HAD ALREADY ADAPTED POSI-
TIONS ON NUCLEAR BASING AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY;

(3) THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT WELL-BALANCED,
BUT ONE-SIDED. WHILE THE NEUTRON BOMB AND CRUISE MISSILES
WERE MENTIONED, NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE SS-20. THERE
WAS NO MENTION OF SOVIET SYSTEMS IN CONTIGUOUS AREAS SUCH
AS THE KOLA PENINSULA OR THE ACTIVITY OF SOVIET SSBNS IN
THE BALTIC.

(D) ILONIEMI ASKED IF WE COULD CONTINUE DISCUSSION WITH
THEM. WE SAID THIS WAS NOT A PROCESS BUT A PERSONAL RE-
ACTION. FURTHER TALKS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS BUT THERE IS LITTLE POINT IN THE US GIVING SERI-
OUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSAL UNTIL AFTER IT HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED FIRST WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND THE USSR.

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4. USE THIS FOR YOUR OWN BACKGROUND FOR THE TIME BEING AND
WE WILL TRY TO GET CLEARED GUIDANCE OUT TO YOU AND YOUR
COLLEAGUES. CHRISTOPHER

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